



For immediate release: October 23, 2012

Southern Appalachian International Film Festival Culminates Knoxville's Film Festival Season

Knoxville, TN -- Knoxville, TN will further establish itself as a destination city for film festival enthusiasts with the Southern Appalachian International Film Festival on November 12-18. The largest and most diverse of Knoxville's film festivals, SOAPIFF will be screening 75 films at the campuses of Pellissippi State Community College and the Knoxville Museum of Art, all free to the public.

The independent films come from the South and from all over the world, and include both feature films and shorts. Film categories include Horror, Appalachian, LGBT, Documentaries, Animation, Foreign Language and several more.

Adam Leipzig, former Disney executive and past President of National Geographic films will speak at free screenings of two of his films, *Dead Poets Society* and *March of the Penguins* on Monday the 12th at Pellissippi State Community College's Hardin Valley Campus, and on Tuesday at the Knoxville Museum of Art for a screening of *Titus*.

Knoxville has recently become a magnet for both film festivals and film production, says festival founder Mark Compton, who says the city is fast becoming "one of the major entertainment centers in the country." Compton isn't surprised that so many films are emerging from the South. "We have the best writers, the best stories. Not since the literature movement of the early mid-twentieth century has the South had such a voice."

SOAPIFF Artistic Director Amelia McCormick points out that many of the films the festival has screened in the past have gone on to win major awards or distribution deals, which benefits both the filmmakers and the audience. "We're providing a way for people in East Tennessee to have a cultural experience they might not otherwise have." McCormick says, "Filmmaking is an art and a passion. You don't make a film unless you absolutely love doing it. This year's entries really show that."

All 2012 SOAPIFF screenings and events are free to the public and sponsored by the Knoxville Museum of Art, Pellissippi State Community College and the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies.

To request further info/schedule interviews contact:

Kelly Robinson, Director of Public Relations for SOAPIFF
(865) 405-9166

thekellyrobinson@gmail.com

SOAPIFF.com